



Little River Currents

Megwaa ezhiwebaak

The Legacy of Reaffirmation

Bringing our ancestors' dreams into the future



Sacred to our people,
the Mighty Eagle and
Wise Turtle

This beautifully carved horn was presented to the membership for review by the Ogema at the 2003 Fall Membership Meeting.

The different stages of growth of the turtle symbolize the growth of our Tribe.

It has only been a few short years since a handful of Tribal members sought reaffirmation and formed the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. Thanks to these people and the work of many others our Tribe has become recognized by the federal government as a sovereign nation. Their important work has given us a new beginning and opportunity to learn about the future we all share.

History shows various treaties negotiated between the LRBOI and U.S. government to settle issues on everything from land and hunting rights to education and health-care. However, as noted historians and even government findings will show these treaties weren't actually fulfilled in the way our grand-

fathers and grandmothers intended.

Our Ogema and Tribal Council have taken the initiative to learn from the past. To help bring our nation into the ever changing future in a good way they are commissioning professionals and have become deeply involved in researching the history of our Tribe. By discovering how our Tribe developed in the past, and continuing to study how it grows today, our leaders can help our legacy become a reality.

As Anishinaabek we have adapted and become receptive to change, but just as we embrace change we also hold tightly to the dreams and beliefs of our ancestors. Learning

what they wished for us, and accomplishing those dreams is just as important to our Tribe today as it was hundreds of years ago.

Today negotiations go on between our Tribe and local, state, and federal governments. We enjoy peaceful co-existence with our neighbors on Reservation land and understand that keeping our land and raising our children on it is exactly what our ancestors wanted for us.

In this edition of Currents readers will begin to learn that our destiny is to follow the road our ancestors built and that accomplishing the deeds they started in the past will take the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians into the future.

“Dances With Wolves” star speaks at Little River Band of Ottawa Indians 2003 Fall Membership meeting

ARTICLE REPRINT FROM MANISTEE NEWS ADVOCATE By: Allison Batdorff –Staff Writer

Floyd Red Crow Westerman said that most people know him from his “black-haired days.”

Perhaps they saw his noble face in the movies “Dances With Wolves,” “Renegades,” and “The Doors,” or maybe they spotted him on the prime-time television in “Walker, Texas Ranger,” “Northern Exposure,” “X-Files,” “Dharma and Greg,” and “Millennium.” Perhaps they’ve known him from the music world, as Westerman has put out country and folk hits for the last 30 years, and as an activist, has worked with Willie Nelson, Sting, Joni Mitchell, Harry Belafonte and Kris Kristofferson.

“When we make a decision, it's not just for us; it's for our children...”

Now Westerman's hair is gray; but he's still “looking good” - or so people feel compelled to tell him, Westerman said during his self-effacing introduction at the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians membership meeting Saturday.

“I think there are four stages to life: childhood, adolescence, adulthood and looking good,” laughed Westerman. “When people say you're ‘looking good’ you know you've pretty much had it.”

In Westerman's case, this couldn't be less true. At 77-years old, Westerman is as active as ever. He's producing a PBS mini-series on the American Indian holocaust, as the co-chair of the Coalition Against Racism in Sports, he speaks to groups about ridding America of degrading Native American stereotypes and sports mascots. He's even building a Johnny Cash Tribute band for a casino tour next year.

But between Grand Rapids and North Carolina, Westerman took time out his busy schedule to stop at the Little River Casino Resort to speak and sing to Tribal members about issues that effect them, like cultural restoration and environmental protection.

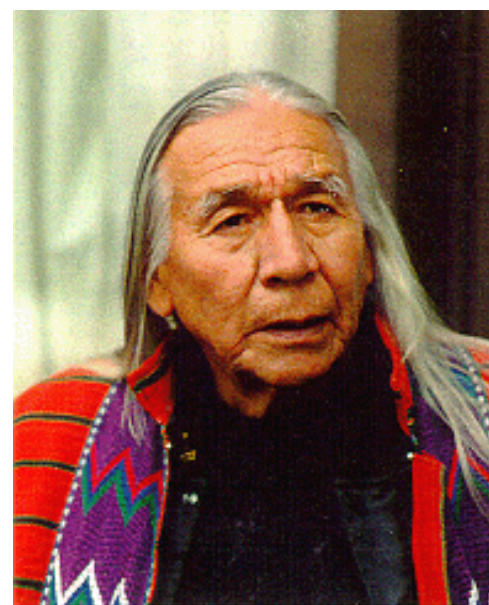
“Once you stop the language, we cease to be a people,” said the Dakota Sioux. “You don't want to be like everybody else; there is something special in the old ways. Our teachings are as important

now as they were then,” Westerman said.

Especially in terms of using “the seven-generation rule in regards to the environment,” he said. “When we make a decision, it's not for just us; it's for our children, and so on,” Westerman said. “With the environment, we're at the threshold point of no return. We have to check it now or else we'll be seeing our children dying of cancers and other illnesses.”

He spoke highly of the Tribe's opposition to the proposed 425-megawatt coal plant on Manistee Lake and the Tribe's plan to develop wind power. “I've seen it all over the world—industry profits at the expense of people and the environment. The Manistee community should do a study on the patterns of illness in the area and then you'll be able to see what the industry is all about. An alternative approach is a really good plan,” Westerman said. “Clean energy will save us from a sad demise.”

With a combination of mirth and gravity, Westernman encouraged



Tribal members to stand up for their civil rights and treaty rights and to keep their history close with a number of songs he calls “most unpopular songs in America like “This Land Is My Land,” Custer Died for Your Sins,” and “Missionaries, Leave Indians Alone.”

He closed his act on a light note with a Johnny Cash song about “being Elvis Presley.” “We were lucky that he could stop in and see us,” said Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Ogema Lee Sprague. “He's an icon.”

Look for the Spring 2004 Membership Meeting dates in the next Currents

The Education Department recently started a history project for Tribal youth. Find out more about it next month

Per Cap Survey Results are complete. Please contact the Tribal Council office to get a copy mailed to your household

Are you a Diabetic? Read about how you can help yourself cope with the challenges in next month's news



Ogema Lee Sprague

Boozhoo,

As the New Year begins my office is pleased to present you with the first edition of the new Tribal periodical, Little River Currents. The new format, layout and special features will help Tribal government and administration convey important information more clearly to you each month.

Communication with membership is essential and with new and exciting changes like the newspaper, and web site that will be launched soon, my administration will accomplish the goal of keeping mem-

bership informed of current news.

Keeping in contact, staying abreast of the news, and offering a personal touch, Little River Currents is a tool that will not only record our Tribal history as it happens but also be something that provides our membership information that can be used for many reasons.

One essential part of this publication includes the 90-Day Calendar. It's my hope that members will use that information to plan ahead to gather with other members at events, attend commission or committee meetings or visit the Casino if traveling to the Reservation. And if you are planning on coming to the Reservation be sure to call the Casino to get Tribal member discount on room rates. The casino is pretty busy during the weekend and rooms may be limited but during the week you can call 1-888-568-2244 for room availability and rates.

Another exciting communication tool, the Tribal website, is now under construction. I encourage all Tribal members to check it out online when it becomes available. In addition to what you see here in the Currents newspaper you'll find

a photo gallery, updates on Council actions and interactive options to communicate with Tribal offices directly over the Internet.

You'll also notice a new question and answer column called LRBOI Q&A. Tribal citizens can now send in their questions about particular topics each month and Currents will share the answers. The first column covers a little bit about territory. As each of you may already know land has always been critical to our people. While this year rolls on you'll read more in the newspaper about our Tribal lands and have opportunities to communicate your views about how we use them at public meetings and through the newspaper and website.

Bringing all our dreams to life and helping to secure the legacy of our grandfathers and grandmothers continues to be my mission as your Ogema, and a Tribal member. In closing I wish you and your families a very happy New Year. I look forward to working with you and for you as our Tribe continues to grow and work towards the future.

Lee

LAND USE PLAN

Public Meeting Schedule

Public Meeting #1: Jan. 17, 2004

Includes a presentation of the history and current conditions within the 1836 and 1855 Reservations. Tribal members will be asked to comment on the findings and express land use issues and concerns. Held in the Dome Room at 3pm.

Public Meeting #2: Feb. 21, 2004

Will be an interactive session to develop the vision for the Reservation including a statement of guiding principles. Held in the Dome Room at 3pm.

Public Meeting #3: March 20, 2004

Will include the review of the alternative concept plans by Tribal members and the determination of which ideas are either liked or disliked. Held in the Dome Room at 3pm.

Public Meeting #4: April 17, 2004

Final presentation of the Land Use Plan at the 2004 Spring Membership Meeting at the Little River Casino. Call for time.

CURRENT LRBOI JOB POSTINGS:

As of December 30, 2003

**Temporary Utility Operator
Wastewater Treatment Plant & Community Water Manager/
Operator
Surveillance Supervisor
Surveillance Lead Operator
Air Quality Specialist**

Please contact the Human Resource Department for more information at 1-866-556-5660.

Advertise with Little River Currents

For less than \$1 a day!

Mail your business card to us for the Goods & Services Directory. We'll scan it and print it in black and white for you in the next issue.

Offer available for Tribal members and non-Tribal business owners. Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month for publication in next months issue. Send your check or money order made payable to Little River Band of Ottawa Indians for \$25.00 to:

**Little River Currents
375 River Street
Manistee, Michigan 49660**

*Tribal members send just \$20.00.
Include Tribal identification number on back
of your business card and on check or
money order.*

Little River Currents is published monthly by the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. Currents welcomes all submissions but does not guarantee placement nor do published submissions necessarily reflect the views of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.

Artwork, photos, and poetry will be sent back to you if you send it with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to return it in. Please include your full name, Tribal identification number and current mailing address with all submissions. If sending photos or artwork please include a description of the subject as well. Dedications must be received 30 days in advance.

Currents is distributed free to all LRBOI Tribal citizens by mail and to Tribal employees at select locations. Subscriptions are available at a yearly rate of \$17.00. For Elders over the age of 55 subscription rates are \$15.00 in the U.S.A. Foreign rates are based on shipping and handling expenses.

Little River Currents is located at 375 River Street, Manistee, MI 49660. For assistance in any way please contact the Currents office at currents@lrboi.com or call Melissa Zelenak at 1-888-723-8288.



The Great Seal of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians was designed by Jay Sam of Manistee, Michigan and adopted for use by the LRBOI Tribal Council.

There is great meaning in the seal for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. The central feature is a river, not any one in particular. The bands of people that are now known as the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians used all of the rivers in western Lower Michigan. Our people were riverine in nature and the valleys and land surrounding the river symbolize the fertility and wealth of resources found along the rivers. Where the sky meets the water the lands close a little to indicate the Great Lakes that were important to our people too. The pine tree on the side of the design represents peace and prosperity. Two eagles fly near the tree, a pair to represent balance and eagles because they carry prayer to the Creator. A medicine wheel, or sacred circle, surrounds the logo with the four directions and colors used by the Anishinaabek. The earth enters the east to show we will always seek and be ready to begin anew as the day does. And finally, nine feathers hang from the circle to represent the nine Ogemuk, or chiefs, that today's members of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians trace their heritage to.

Tribal Roads Program Report on US 31 Corridor Study Committee

Submitted by: Dan Shepard, Tribal Roads Program Manager

Northwest Michigan Council of Governments (NWMCOG) has contracted with an MDOT-approved planning firm to develop a Corridor Management Plan for US-31 in Manistee County. The planning firm will work closely with local planners and NWMCOG staff to collect and analyze data to develop an effective management plan. The plan will include, but not be limited to recommendations to manage growth, reduce congestion, enhance safety, improve roadway capacity, consolidate and eliminate driveways, improve intersections, improve driveway configuration and spacing, study speed and signalization improvements, enhance non-motorized travel, and suggest revisions to local zoning ordinances to promote consistency in managing access throughout the US-31 corridor.

Development along US-31 from County Line Road and north through the intersection of M-22 has changed the landscape of the corridor and introduced new challenges. The development of a Corridor Management Plan in Manistee County will help local officials manage growth, reduce congestion, and improve safety along US-31

The Manistee Area Chief Elected Officials Group, along with representatives from the County Road Commission and MDOT, has identified the following goals and objectives for the proposed plan and subsequent planning process

- Improve traffic safety through careful placement and spacing of access points and median crossovers
- Work with local governments to coordi-

- nate land use throughout the corridor
- Determine current and projected traffic volumes
- Reduce travel time and congestion throughout the corridor
- Improve access to homes and businesses
- Preserve the capacity of US-31
- Develop a Corridor Management Plan for future use by local units of government
- Recommend standardization of local ordinances and zoning districts throughout the corridor
- Form a Corridor Advisory Committee to coordinate and make recommendations for the US-31 corridor

The Corridor Advisory Group consists of Tribal, County, City and Township Planners and local officials.

DURING THIS WINTER SEASON, THE LRBOI ROADS PROGRAM WOULD LIKE TO REMIND PEOPLE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF CHILD SAFETY RESTRAINTS.

*Buckle Everyone. Children Age 12 and Under Ride in Back!
Proper Child Safety Seat Use Chart Below.*

	Infants	Toddler	Young Children
WEIGHT	Birth to 1 year At least 20-22 lbs	Over 1 year and Over 20-40 lbs	Over 40 lbs Ages 4-8, unless 4'9"
TYPE OF SEAT	Infant only or rear facing convertible	Convertible / Forward-facing	Belt positioning booster seat.
SEAT POSITION	Rear-facing only	Forward-facing	Forward-facing
ALWAYS MAKE SURE	Children to one year and at least 20 lbs in rear-facing seats Harness straps at or below shoulder level	Harness straps should be at or above shoulders Most seats require top slot for forward-facing	Belt Positioning booster seats must be used with both lap and shoulder belt. Make sure the lap belt fits low and tight across the lap/upper thigh area and the shoulder belt fits snug crossing the chest and shoulder to avoid abdominal injuries
WARNING	All children age 12 and under should ride in the back seat	All children age 12 and under should ride in the back seat	All children age 12 and under should ride in the back seat

Many historical documents have been reviewed by the LRBOI government and research associates. Some of these documents are housed across the country in places like the:

- Smithsonian Institute
- National Library of Congress
- Michigan State University
- University of Michigan
- Bureau of Indian Affairs

You can find more information about the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians by contacting the Cultural Preservation Committee or through various sites on the internet like these:

www.msu.edu/unit/nai
www.anishinaabemowin.org
www.indianz.com
www.si.edu/nmai



In 2001 there were 116 new Tribal members enrolled, in 2002 there were 93 and in 2003 we enrolled 262.

We have received 89 membership applications to be researched since September. We have people applying for membership who are transferring from other Tribes like the Saginaw Chippewa, Grand Traverse, Huron Potawatomi, and Grand River.

If you are moving, changing your name, or have any other change of status please notify the Enrollment Department.

News from the Enrollment Department

By Kimberly M. Alexander, LRBOI Enrollment Officer

We have 94 address changes from 10/30/2003 through 11/14/2003. There are 3,042 Tribal members enrolled, of which 88 are all 4/4 Grand River. We have 417 Tribal Elders and the oldest is 96 years old.

We still have 1,226 Members who have not filled out their Beneficiary Form.

Program Description: Bereavement Benefit

Service:

- To assist Tribal Families with costs incurred with funeral expenses. The amount is \$7,500.00.

Eligibility:

- Must be a registered Little River Band Tribal Member.

Requirements:

- A bereavement beneficiary form must be filled out by the Tribal member and must be notarized.

Claiming of Benefits:

To claim bereavement benefits you must:

- Have a completed beneficiary form on file
- Provide proper identification
- Present a death certificate to Enrollment

If there is a question with validity in the event that a loved one passes on the matter of distribution is followed through in Tribal Court.

Departmental Updates

ARE YOU READY FOR WINTER?

Information collected and submitted by: Angie Turner, Administrative Assistant to the Family Services Director



Living in Michigan I have become accustomed to the ever changing weather of the Northeast. I have told myself time and time again that I should prepare well in advance to winterize my home. However, Old Man Winter is knocking at our door and I have not even begun to plan this important work. Here are some relatively simple ways to prepare your home for the cold months of winter and enjoy the major benefits to winterizing like improved safety, warmth and savings on energy costs.

WINDOWS & DOORS

Did you know that 46 % of heat lost is through and around glazed areas in windows and doors? Window insulation kits are relatively easy to install; all you need it a pair of scissors and a hair-dryer; there is no measuring and minimal cutting. The biggest point I can express is follow the directions that are included in the kits. Window kits should be installed before the weather gets

below 40°, but late is better than not doing it at all. Doors let air squeeze through the cracks and raise your heating bill. Door sweeps should be installed to the bottom of any of the doors to prevent air from escaping. These sweeps can also be installed on interior doors to prevent heating a place that you don't need heated.

ELECTRICAL OUTLETS

I was very surprised to find that outlets are responsible for 20% of heat lost in a home. If you have children in your home and use those little plastic socket sealers to prevent children from shocking themselves they will also help keep cold drafts out. You can buy inexpensive foam socket covers at your local hardware store.

HEATING SYSTEMS

Call a service technician to get information about having your furnace inspected for energy efficiency and safety. Making sure that your furnace is working properly is not only cost effective but it

ensures that your furnace is safe to run during the cold winter months. Changing your furnace filter and having your ducts cleaned are also simple ways to save money on heating costs. Installing a programmable thermostat can help with year round efficiency too.

THE EXTERIOR OF YOUR HOME

Not only do you winterize the inside of your home, the outside of your home needs attention too. Those pretty leaves that fall every year get into the gutter system of your home and clog it; this will allow the water to freeze and possibly break your gutters. As long as you're on the roof you might want to check your chimney to ensure that it is not clogged with leaves, or in the worst case, little critters. Putting a screen over the chimney after cleaning will prevent this from happening. Checking the condition of your roof will give you a heads up on possible problems

that could come up in the future. Assess the trees and branches near your property. Heavy snow and ice on trees can not only damage your home but could injure anyone in its path.

Some other things I always forget to do in preparation for winter are to disconnect my garden hoses and emptying the gasoline from the lawnmowers, weed whackers, and other engines that won't be used until summer. Also be sure to stock up on ice melting salt, sand or kitty litter and make sure your snow shovels are in good working condition.

Remember the initial cost of winterizing your home will normally pay itself off in less than a year. If you are unable to perform these tasks yourself look in your local paper or yellow pages for winterization programs in your area. Many energy companies offer winterization for minimal cost if not free depending on your current situation.

Accounting Update

Submitted by Valerie Chandler, Accounting Office Manager

At this time 95% of the Accounting compliance audit responses have been completed, reported to the Ogema and summarized in a bound report. The remaining 5% will be completed with the finalization of the Accounting Procedures Manual, which is in the formative stages. The Budget Manager spent time working individually with program directors in the development and revision of their FY2004 budget proposals. He also compiled budget materials and coordinated a Budget Hearing for the Tribal Ogema. The Hearings were held on August 23rd and October 4th.

Several Accounting staff members attended a BIA 638 contract training in Mt. Pleasant. This training gave the participants a greater understanding of the rules of 638 contracting with the BIA. Participants also had the opportunity to establish or enhance their relationship with BIA officials, which is essential when dealing with complications and/or modifications to existing contracts.

EMPLOYEE INTRODUCTION

We would like to introduce to you another one of our employees. We would like to introduce to you: **Angela Willis**. She is the daughter of Mary Thomas, granddaughter of Grace (Koon) Willis and the great-granddaughter of James Koon. Angela has three brothers, Ben, Travis and Buddy and one sister, Sydnie. Angela is currently attending West Shore Community College and also works part-time at the Little River Casino Resort. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends, biking, fishing and swimming. Angela's current position is the Purchasing/Mail Clerk. She assists the Purchasing Manager with purchase orders, data entry, requests for proposals, printing reports and filing. Angela also processes all certified and FedEx mailings, does daily mail runs between the Tribal offices and stamps, distributes and logs department mail. Angela is a true asset to the Tribe and is always going above and beyond to do her best. We all appreciate everything you do and wish you the very best. *Kchi-miigwech Angie!*



Ogema Sprague and new Natural Resource Commissioners , Levi Stone, Mick Moore and Jimmie Mitchell discuss commission business in the Ogema's office.

Cooperative Agreement between LRBOI and Michigan Department of Career Development

The Vocational Rehabilitation program, through the State of Michigan – Michigan Rehabilitation Services, has provided services to members of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians throughout the State of Michigan. This program will be setting aside a service allotment specifically for LRBOI members.

Eligible client customers will be Tribal members with documented physical and/or mental impairments, which constitute a substantial impediment to employment, who require vocational rehabilitation services to prepare for, obtain or maintain employment, as defined by the Rehabilitation Act and its amendments.

Interested persons should contact the LRBOI Family Services Department for more information. Family services can be reached toll-free at 1-888-382-8299.



Housing Department News

Submitted by: Michelle Bernatche, Executive Secretary to Housing

The Little River Band Housing Department would like to announce that the REACH Program is now accepting applications for qualified homeowners. This program is intended to promote health and safety in the home, energy conservation, self-sufficiency and the importance of conserving energy. This program is available in the nine county service area for low-income families. To request an application please call our office at 231.723.8288 or toll-free at 888.723.8288 ext. 6729.

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
Job Hotline Number
1-866-556-5660

For questions related to employment opportunities, please contact Tina Vaquera, Human Resources Director at 1.888.723.8288



Contract Health and Extended Health Programs

Submitted by: Gina Wright, CHS Administrative Manager

Happy Holidays to you and yours! May you all have a joyous holiday with your family, friends, and awesome memories of loved ones past. Here are just a few reminders for this month.

First, remember to call for pre-approval at least 48 hours in advance. You may call sooner than that, but at least 48 hours. Your CHS worker will love you even more if you call as soon as you make the appointment! XOXOXOXO

Second, if you receive a bill in the mail, Quest for example, PLEASE call us as soon as you get the FIRST one. If you have a primary insurance carrier (BCBS, Priority Health, Medicaid, etc), sometimes you (the member) are sent the bill for the co-pay instead of us. This does not mean that it was not pre-approved or that we did not send a purchase order. Some companies/vendors will just bill the patient. If you notify us as soon as you receive the FIRST one, it just helps us to expedite the payment process so you do not receive threatening and/or collection notice letters.

Third, if you have prescription coverage on your primary insurance (BCBS, ASR, Medicaid, etc.) and they will not pay for a certain medication (new drugs, birth control, etc.), we cannot pay for it either. We have to follow the insurance formularies.

Fourth, if you call in to report an appointment, LEAVING A MESSAGE DOES NOT COUNT AS PRE-APPROVAL. You must report the appointment to a live human being (in CHS). You may leave them a message, but be sure to leave a return number where you can be reached for the ENTIRE day.

Fifth, if you have a reassessment, please return it ASAP and include all documentation needed (Tribal ID, proof of residence and all insurance cards). If you are not sure if you completed a reassessment for 2003, please contact your CHS worker. Keep your file up-

dated. You may not like filling out the new forms, they are LONG! And for those of you who question why you need to send in new copies every year; we date stamp them and when we are audited (trust me, we are), they look to see if the eligibility requirements are current and up-to-date! This helps us keep our funding agency (Indian Health Services) VERY HAPPY!

Sixth, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE remember to include your confirmation numbers on your bills, prescriptions, etc. This will help to expedite the payment process by 7 to 10 days! Remember that each worker has a couple hundred people to look after and it is VERY time consuming, and consequently costly, to look up the numbers.

Seventh, this is for EHAP members. Remember that we will not cover office visits or office visit co-pays if you live within a 90-minute radius of Manistee. You may continue care with your current physician but we will not cover the office visits, co-pays, and prescriptions from the doctor. We will only be able to cover if you were referred to a specialist. You will still be eligible for optical and dental and the other services that are not provided here at the Tribal Clinic. The regulation states that if the service is available at an Indian Health Facility, it cannot be paid for at another facility. So, if you wanted to see a doctor at another Tribal Clinic, you may do so free of charge and the prescriptions would be covered. This holds true for ALL EHAP members who live near a Tribal clinic no matter what state you live in.

Lastly, for those of you who ARE NOT established patients at the Tribal Clinic, please do not expect a referral to another doctor. Not only is that against regulation, it is unethical. There are very few exceptions in the regulation for external referrals and they are for members with an HMO insurance (except Medicaid), and referrals for specialists. In the past you may have been told that if you wanted help getting your medical bills paid and you did not have a

referral from Dr. Dixon, you could just come in and get one. Well, there is a problem with that. You need to be an established patient at the clinic BEFORE you can expect a referral. There is a whole line of ethics things that go along with that and I think you get the general idea. If you need help with your medical bills and, you live in the 90-minute radius, you need to sign up for Contract Health and utilize Tribal Clinic services. This is the only way we can help pay your bills (or co-pays) if you live within the 90-minute radius. Like I mentioned above, there are very few exceptions. If you are not sure what your status is, please call. In the meantime, I would advise you to set up a doctor/patient relationship with our native doctor. She cares for our people and is very dedicated to our Tribe and her work. She is very honest and caring for her patients. I welcome you to make an appointment to come and meet her. You won't regret it, I promise.

So, on that note, on behalf of the CHS/EHAP staff and myself, we wish you a VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY and we look forward to the NEW YEAR! If you are ever in doubt, PLEASE CALL US! Do not rely on rumors. Our toll free number is 1.888.382.8299 or 231.723.8299. Miigwech. Gina Wright

CHS/EHAP IMPORTANT NEWS BULLETIN

PLEASE DISREGARD THIS NOTICE

Utilities Department

Submitted by: Gary Lewis, Interim Director

Utility Plant Hours: Monday-Friday 8 am - 5 pm Phone: (231) 723-2309

If we are unable to answer leave a message or After Hours Emergency: Cell # 510-1928 Pager # 1 (231) 255-0847 Pager # 2 (231) 255-0835

The Utilities Department is developing a regular schedule of maintenance services for the Community Water & Sewerage Systems including but not limited to the following:

A) Community Water System

1. Inspect & operate all valves & hydrants.
2. Inspect & repair water mains for leaks & damage.
3. Flush water lines.
4. Inspect water tank & level indicators.
5. Adjust & service controls.
6. Maintain all components as necessary.

B) Community Sewerage Systems

1. Flush sewer mains.
2. Remove debris from manholes.
3. Inspect & service lift stations.
4. Operate & maintain wastewater treatment plant.

It takes a Community to keep our Water & Wastewater systems Safe. Periodically we will put out information to keep our customers/members aware of ways in which to keep our systems safe, along with any changes we incur.

DID YOU KNOW:

- It is unlawful to utilize the water system for any commercial/agricultural use. Individual gardens are not considered commercial use and are considered domestic.
- Cross Connections are prohibited: A Cross Connection is defined as any physical connection between the community water system and another system, either waste or water.

Water

1. 75 % of Americans are chronically dehydrated.
2. In 37% the thirst mechanism is so weak that it is often mistaken for hunger.
3. Even mild dehydration will slow down metabolism 3 %.

4. One glass of water shut down midnight hunger pangs for almost 100% of dieters, in a University of Washington study.
5. Lack of water, #1 trigger of daytime fatigue.
6. A mere 2% drop in body water can trigger fuzzy short term memory, trouble with basic math, & difficulty focusing on a computer screen or printed page.
7. 5 glasses of water a day decreases the risk of colon cancer by 45%, & may slash the risk of breast cancer by 79%, & you are 50% less likely to develop bladder cancer.

Cola

1. In many states the Highway patrol carries two gallons of cola to wash away blood after an accident.
2. You can put a T-bone steak in a bowl with cola & it will be gone in two days.
3. To clean a toilet bowl: pore a can of cola into it & let it sit for one hour. Citric acid removes stains from vitreous china.
4. To remove rust spots on chrome bumpers: Rub the bumper with a crumpled up piece of Reynolds Wrap aluminum foil dipped in cola.
5. To loosen a rusted bolt: Apply a rag dipped in cola for several minutes to the bolt.
6. To remove grease from clothes: Empty a can of cola into greasy clothes. Add detergent then run through a regular cycle, this will help loosen the grease.

Ingredients:

1. The active ingredient in cola is phosphoric acid. (It will dissolve a nail in about four days).
2. Phosphoric acid leaches calcium from bones. (Increasing the risk of osteoporosis).
3. To carry cola syrup concentrate a commercial truck must use the hazardous material cards reserved for highly corrosive chemicals!
4. The distributors of cola have been using it for about twenty years to clean engines on their trucks!

Departmental Updates

Natural Resource Department

Submitted by Bonnie Harnish
Executive Secretary

Deer Tags

This is a reminder to return your deer tags by February 2, 2004 whether you harvested a deer or not. Bring your deer head in to be checked for TB and receive your successful deer patch.

Services Provided From the Natural Resource Department

- Fishing License/Regulations
- Hunting License/Regulations
- Crossbow Permit Application
- Subsistence Fishing License
- Camping Permits
- Sleeping Bear Lifetime Pass
- Special Use Permit Applications
- USFS Manistee-Huron Vehicle Passes

NR Commission Survey Results

Submitted by Teresa Romero
Executive Clerical Secretary

Manistee Lake Sediment Forum

By Paul Ripple, GAP Coordinator

On Thursday September 25, the Little River Band and the Lake Michigan Federation co-hosted an educational forum on the state of Manistee Lake sediments. Tanya Cabala of the Lake Michigan Federation and Dr. Richard Rediske from Grand Valley State University spoke at the forum.

Ms. Cabala talked about the work the Lake Michigan Federation has done in other lakes and positive outcomes achieved in dealing with water pollution. She also emphasized the need for public participation in any efforts to improve water quality.

Dr. Rediske presented the results of research he led on the lakes sediment in 1998. The results of the research were published in 2001 in a U.S. EPS report titled, "Preliminary Investigation of the Extent of Sediment Contamination in Manistee Lake." This report is available online at <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/sediment/Manistee/rpt17.pdf>. The researchers found very little life on the bottom of the lake, which

Congratulations to the following Tribal members who each won gift certificates from Wal-mart for participating in the 2003 Natural Resources Survey.

Pamela Hibbs-\$25 Gift Certificate
Misty Silvis-\$25 Gift Certificate
Mickey Wahr-\$50 Gift Certificate
Linda Parham-\$100 Gift Certificate

The NR Commission extends a miigwech to all who participated in the survey.

The Natural Resource Commission meets regularly on the first Wednesday of every month at 6pm. If you have any questions about the Natural Resource Commission please forward them via email or phone to Teresa Romero at: tromero@lrboi.com or (231) 723-1594.

The Natural Resource commission members are as follows:

Jimmie Mitchell, Chairman
Virgil Johnson, Vice-Chairman
Mick Moore, Commissioner
Mike Ceplina, Commissioner
Levi Stone, Commissioner

should not be the case. Dr. Rediske reported that they found higher than normal levels of lead, cadmium, and hydrocarbons at various sites in the lake including a very high level of diesel fuel in front of the Manistee Drop Forge Site. While the impacts of industry can be seen in the lake sediments, Dr. Rediske believes the biggest problem at the bottom of the lake is the high salt levels that exist there. Dr. Rediske's research team found very high concentrations of the heavier than normal salty water at the bottom of the lake. He stated that the source of that salt were leaking brine wells close to the lake and old wells some distance away that leak brine into the ground water feeding the lake.

The good news according to Dr. Rediske is that the salty conditions can be eliminated if the sources of salty brine leaking into the lake are eliminated. Once the sources of brine are removed the lake can be flushed out by water coming in from the rivers.

Successful Salmon Spearing Season

By Marty Holtgren, Inland Fisheries Biologist

This fall, salmon spearing was open to Tribal members under a special use permit issued by the Natural Resources Department. Over 25 individuals participated in the harvest with more than 75 Chinook and Coho salmon harvested. Spearing was permitted on a section of upper Pine Creek and a small tributary of the Manistee River on the Tribe's Old House parcel. The Natural Resources Department has collected biological data on the salmon in these two systems by carcass counting surveys and by reporting cards filled out by the permitted harvesters. Results of these studies will be published in an upcoming news. If interested in spearing look for a similar opportunity next fall.



From Left to Right: Ken LaHaye, Brian Gibson, Brian Moore, Bob Hardenburgh at designated area at Pine Creek.

Commodities Department

For Information Call 1-231-398-6715 or 1-231-398-6716
Toll-free 1-888-723-8288

Good news for the Commodities Program! Our State Plan of Operation amendment has been approved. We can now serve Tribal members for Osecola County and Mecosta County. We now serve these 13 counties:

Benzie	Lake	Mecosta
Leelanau	Manistee	Mason
Muskegon	Newaygo	Oceana
Ottawa	Wexford	Osecola
Grand Traverse		

Diabetic Brownies

2 cups graham crackers	1/2 cup chopped walnuts
3 oz. Semi sweet chocolate	1 1/2 tsp. Sweet n low
1/4 tsp. Salt	1 cup skim milk

Heat oven 350 degrees. Place all ingredients in bowl; blend well. Bake in greased 8x8x2 pan for thirty minutes. Cut into two inch squares while warm. Cool and serve.

Peanut Brittle Cookies

1 cup brown sugar	1 cup granulated sugar
1 cup shortening	1/2 cup chunky style peanut butter
2 eggs	2 cups flour
1 teaspoon salt	1 tablespoon baking powder
1 cup crushed peanut brittle	

Cream together brown sugar, granulated sugar and shortening. Add 1/2 cup chunky style peanut butter. Mix in two eggs, one at a time. Mix and sift two cups of flour and one teaspoon salt. Add one teaspoon baking powder add all of the dry ingredients to the cream mixture. Add one cup crushed peanut brittle. Roll into small balls and place on greased cookie sheet flatten balls with fork. Bake 15 minutes at 350 degrees Chill and serve.

Anishinaabe Language Hotline
1-877-789-0993

SWEETGRASS RE-PLANTING

The Natural Resources Department is going to be building some raised beds for sweetgrass and sage and was wondering if anyone had any information on localities of local strains of sweetgrass that the department could propagate. We would like to use a strain that is indigenous to the area to increase opportunities for successful propagation and re-planting. If you have any information on local strains or know anybody who does please contact the Natural Resources Department. The sweetgrass will be propagated and made available to Tribal members for replanting and harvest. We would like to get this information as soon as possible in order to begin propagation for re-planting in the spring. Thanks! NR Nate

people are exposed to the toxic metal is through fish consumption. Here's how it gets to your dinner plate.

Fish-eating birds generally have high levels of mercury contamination.

Sources: EPA; Washington Department of Ecology; Washington Department of Health; Washington State Mercury Chemical Action Plan; Gannett News Service

The heavy metal settles to the bottom of the water body, combines with bacteria, and is then taken up by algae and invertebrates.

Algae

Invertebrates

Small fish eat contaminated invertebrates and algae.

Bigger fish digest the smaller fish. At each stage, the mercury accumulates in fish tissue at higher levels.

Fish that may have high levels of mercury:





- Sturgeon
- Bass
- Northern Pike
- Lake Trout
- Muskie
- Walleye

Fish that generally have low levels of mercury:

- King Salmon
- Coho Salmon
- Bluegill
- Pollock
- Steelhead
- Smelt
- Lobster
- Scallops

Fish pick it up as they feed and absorb it from water as it passes over their gills. Larger predator fish accumulate more as they eat other fish. Methyl mercury is stored in fish flesh. **Special trimming and cooking do not remove it.**

For more information
please see the 2003
Michigan Family Fish
Consumption Guide
or contact: MDCH
Environmental &
Occupational
Epidemiology Division
at 1-800-648-6942.

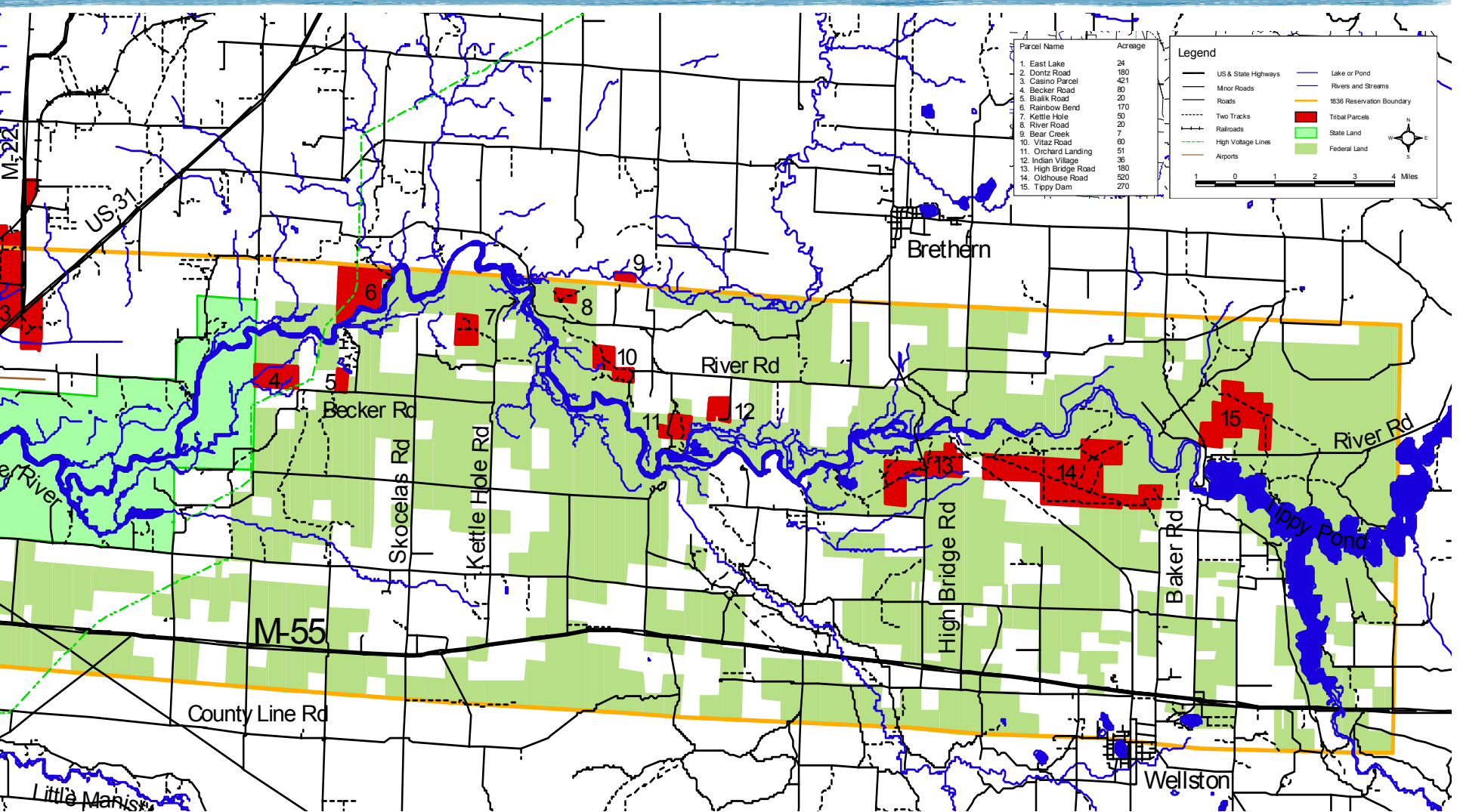
For fish greater than 8 inches		General Population	Women & Children
	Walleye	\$	#
	Crappie	\$	#
	Smallmouth Bass	\$	#
	Largemouth Bass	\$	#

\$	One meal per week	#	One meal per month

No one should eat more than one meal a week of these kinds and sizes of fish from any of Michigan's inland lakes. Women of childbearing age and children under the age of 15 should not eat more than one meal per month of these fish.

The Michigan Department of Community Health has issued a special advisory for all inland lakes in Michigan due to mercury. This is a widespread problem throughout the north central United States and Canada.

This information is paid for by the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians in consultation with concerned area citizens.



people still had about

In this letter, the wishes of our ancestors are again stated by today's Elders who express the importance of having our government officers defend our Reservation boundaries.

The map above shows Tribally owned land within the Manistee portion of the 1836 Reservation territory. Look for maps of the 1855 Reservation territory next month.

about Indians told me in your letterable Albert J. Engle. I am on always write to these Indians They all told us that they would I will send you some these River Indians. We all hope to e us. This is what we want. ation to live on, to eat some dian's havn't got no home, so could help us any, and is enough other Indians don't want give

These names all Grand River In-shington, the wants I send be fore these name I'm sending you now

Mr. John Peters
Mrs. Rose Peters
Mrs. Jennie Peters
Mr. Jim Alberts
Mr. Solomon Smith
Miss Ruth Koon
Mr. Harry J. Smith
Miss Maggie Genereau
Dealia Battics
Wallace Smith
Elizzie Wilson
Mr. Francis C. Paul
Chas. J. Wilson
Nicholas Wilson

We, the Elders of the Gaa Ching Ziibii Daawaa Anishinabek In our capacity as the wisdom-keepers and stewards of our nation, Do affirm and request that our Government officers, both Council and Ogema, at all times defend and support our Sovereign property boundaries and jurisdiction over them, as reserved for the Tribe by our Chiefs, in the 1836 and 1855 treaties.

These are our homelands; our right to govern within the boundaries has never been relinquished nor diminished by any action of the Tribe.

We charge these officials to protect these boundaries and rights with all diligence, as these are of primary importance.

We are putting this in petition form so you will know many of the Elders at our meeting support this document.

Lavern Oren
Margery Lutz
David Crawford
Alice Skrzysinski
Frank Huston
Patsy Morris
Nancy Bower
Shirley Witkop
Darline Short
Alyce Giltz
Robert Whiteloon
Josephine Schondelmayer
Mary Lou Hoffmeyer
Joseph Koon
Dan Stewart
Robert Hardenburgh
Carol Bennett
Loretta Beccaria
Roger Sprague
June Sam
Frances Bott
Leatrice Castoni
Yvonne Foster
Sandra Witkop
Edna Rinard
Martha Denmen
Aldeanna Kelsey
Georgianna Ada
Frances Pitts
Floyd Hewitt
Sherman Moore
Elaine Porter
Katherine Gloch
Harrietta Grants

The Nine Chiefs

Remembering Seven Generations

Do you know the names of the nine chiefs listed as our ancestors in the Tribal Constitution?

Here they are so teach them to your kids and they can enter the "Name the Chief" contest at the Spring 2004 Membership Meeting. Each child who writes down the names of all the Chiefs on an entry slip at the meeting can be in the drawing for a \$25 gift certificate at the local bookstore.

Aken Bell

Ching-gawa-she

Kaw-gay-gaw-bowe

Kewacushkum

Maw-gaw-ne-quong

Me-tay-wis

Pay-quo-tush

Penayse

Shaw-be-quo-ung

Anishinaabe Language Lesson

By Kenny Pheasant, LRBOI Language Instructor

Man, woman, child (life stages)
More weather terms
More household terms
More foods & liquids
Time
Body Parts
Clothing
My family members
Your family members
His/her family members
Numbers (0-15)
Months or moons of the year
To leave info for Language CD Rom

Press 1
Press 2
Press 3
Press 4
Press 5
Press 6
Press 7
Press 8
Press 9
Press 10
Press 11
Press 12
Press 13

His/her family members

His/her father	Wiin Oosan	His/her mother	Wiin Gashi'an
His/her grandfather	Wiin Mishoomisan	His/her grandmother	Wiin Ookmisan
His/her son	Wiin Gwisan	His/her daughter	Wiin Daanisan
His/her grandchild	Wiin Ooshenhan	His/her relative	Wiin Danwendaaganan
His/her child	Wiin Niijaanisan	His/her spouse	Wiin Wiidigemaaganan
His/her parent	Wiin Gitziiman	His/her cousin	Wiin Wiitaawisan

Understanding Anishinaabe Culture

J- Medicine: The Anishinaabek have their own medicine men and women that take care of the community. Men are called Mshkikii niniwok and the women are called Mshkikii niniikwek. Everyone had to learn about the medicines. The medicine is respected and picked a certain way and at a certain time. Medicine in Anishinaabemowin is called Mshki ki which translates into strength from the earth. A person only picks what was needed and is never to be sold because we look at it as a gift. In Anishinaabe culture there are other forms of medicine such as a song, a good story, music and art. A good song or a good story will make a person feel better. The tradition of picking natural medicine and using it is still practiced today by many.



Kids waiting in line to get balloon animals at the 2003 Christmas party.

News about Language CD Rom



Check out the little flyer about information on how you can get your Language CD Rom. It is free to Little River Band members. We will ship one CD per household if you request it. This is a great way for you to learn our language. I put a lot of language in this CD Rom. If you have any questions about the CD or the language please call me at 231-

392-6421 or 231-933-4406 or 231-398-9378 ext 27 or you can email me at Pheasant9@aol.com or go to my website at www.anishinaabemowin.org

LRBOI Community Health Program

Mission Statement

To provide quality outreach health care services and health promotion/disease prevention services to Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Members within the nine county service area (Manistee, Mason, Wexford, Lake, Oceana, Newaygo, Kent, Muskegon, Ottawa) through the use of well trained Community Health Representatives

Purpose of C.H.R Program

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Community Health Representative Program was implemented to improve the health knowledge, attitudes and practices of our Tribal members and community by promoting, supporting, and assisting the Health Clinic in delivering a total health care program, thereby meeting the most basic needs of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Members.

Contact Diane Kelley R.N. @231-398-6611 for more information.



We would like to introduce our Community Health Representative Team!

Back Row: Karla Battice, Darling (Trish) Johnson, Roma Battice, Teresa Johnson & Marty Trevan

Front Row: Heidi Foster & Jeremy (Deacon) Wilson

LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



The Legal Assistance Program can prepare simple Wills and durable Power of Attorney documents for Tribal members who are 50+ years old. If you would like a questionnaire mailed to you to begin this process please contact:

LRBOI Legal AssistanceProgram

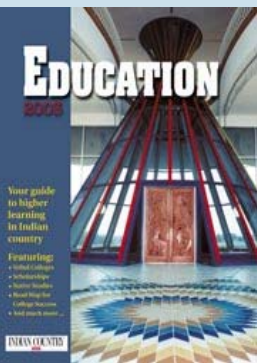
Attn: Terri Raczkowski

375 River Street

Manistee, MI 49660

1-231-398-6822 or 1-888-723-8288

E-mail: traczkowski@lrboi.com



Education 2003

Is now shipping!

This book includes the most comprehensive listing of tribal colleges and American Indian programs at colleges and universities. It's the perfect tool for high school students and their parents who want to decide on what to do and where to go after graduation.

Check out www.indiancountry.com to order!

Tribe says NO to coal plant on Reservation

The following letter from Ogema Sprague outlines the basis for the Tribe's opposition to the proposed Tondou coal-fired power plant. The Ogema has submitted the letter to the Manistee News Advocate and has also been submitted it to the City Planning Commission to be admitted to the record of the hearing where the commission will be deciding on whether or not to approve a zoning variance to allow for the coal plant to be built within the city limits.

An Open Letter to the City of Manistee Planning Commission of Great Importance to the Community:

The Manistee Salt Works Corporation (aka. Tondou Corporation) proposes to build a 425 megawatt coal-fired power plant on Manistee Lake. The new power plant would be located at the vacant General Chemical site in the City of Manistee.

Representatives of the Manistee Salt Works Corporation (MSWC) have participated in a number of public meetings at which they have extolled the virtues of their proposed power plant. To summarize, they promise employment opportunities and that this project will be good for the economy of the Manistee area and for the whole state. At the same time, they assure us that advanced pollution control equipment will be utilized to minimize the adverse impact this proposed plant will have on the environment, and on the health of the people who live here and downwind.

This claim is only one perspective on the potential economic and environmental impact this proposed coal-fired plant will have on our community. As the Ogema of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, and as a husband and father, I would like to offer an alternative perspective to that which has been advanced by the MSWC. Although, I need to qualify that my comments here are not intended to be an exhaustive analysis of the issues, impacts, or alternatives to such a development in our community.

The economy in Manistee is in the midst of a dynamic shift from an industrial base to a tourism base. This has not happened just by accident, but rather has been a deliberate effort that has taken place substantially over the previous decade. This has been accomplished through the cooperative and coordinated efforts between the Tribe, the City, County, Townships, the Manistee Chamber of Commerce and other economic development concerns.

Anyone who has lived in Manistee for any period of time knows how this community was devastated by the loss of jobs and tax base that resulted in the last twenty years when many local industries closed their doors and relocated to other states or countries. Manistee was not alone – dozens of other communities in the Midwest and Northeast were facing similar and profound setbacks.

Contrary to many other communities who were struggling to develop their economic recovery plans, this community had certain 'natural' advantages. Here in Manistee, the sun rises over the National Forest and it sets over Lake Michigan, and in between we have two beautiful rivers, and what can slowly but surely become a jewel – Manistee Lake. For anyone who likes to hunt, fish, hike, ski, boat, canoe, swim, snowmobile, golf, or just be outdoors - this place is a recreationer's dream.

Recognizing these strengths, it was determined that if this community was going to survive, or in any way prosper as it once had, then a new direction would have to be charted – one based more on tourism and less on industry.

This was the very argument and strategy that the Manistee City Council employed when they advocated for the Harbor Village development in the early 1990's. And on the whole, I think they were wise to advance this as the cornerstone of their strategy for reviving the economy of Manistee.

The remaining industrial operations around Manistee Lake still contribute to the local economy, just less than they used to. For Manistee, the tax base and employment opportunities that would be derived by commercial, retail and residential development are significantly greater, in my estimation, than the industrial use proposed by MSWC.

To allow for the proposed coal plant to locate here would be like turning the clock back a century. It's regressive, and it would serve to undermine all the progress and investment that has been made here in the last decade. Furthermore, the proposed coal plant will have a long-term and cumulative detrimental impact on Manistee Lake, on the environment as a whole, and on human populations here and downwind.

Federal law provides that the proposed coal-fired power plant will have to use the "Best Available Control Technology" (BACT) to minimize pollution. BACT legally means the best technology that is affordable - not the best technology period. There is no such thing as "clean coal". The new power plant, as proposed, would have relatively low pollution emissions for a coal-fired power plant, however there will still be harmful pollution emissions.

The emissions from this power plant will be added to current emissions levels. The MSWC representatives are telling the public that Manistee has good air quality and that this area is designated as an "attainment" area for all EPA criteria pollutants. In this context "attainment" means that a pollutant level has not exceeded a certain safe threshold.

The truth is that there is no known evidence to document that the air quality in Manistee has ever been tested. There are no monitoring stations here. The present "attainment" designation is based on the fact that there is no monitoring data on which to establish a designation. Federal law only provides for two designation categories: "attainment" and "nonattainment." When there is no data available for an area, federal law states that the area will have a designation of "attainment" unless the weight of evidence suggests otherwise.

There are ozone monitoring stations in Benzie and Mason County. Both of those counties are designated "nonattainment" for ozone. It would therefore be reasonable to conclude, given that the counties immediately to the north and south of us are classified as "nonattainment", that Manistee County would also have an ozone problem.

Ozone resulting from coal-fired power plant operations can be transported great distances. Here in Manistee we are affected by ozone pollution produced in Wisconsin. Ozone is not emitted directly by coal plants. Coal plants emit the precursors of ground level ozone, mainly oxides of nitrogen.

Ozone causes respiratory problems. Young children, elders, and people with existing respiratory problems such as asthma are at greatest risk.

Ozone also has a negative effect on plant-life, reducing their ability to produce and store food, thereby increasing their susceptibility to disease and pests. Research shows that ground level ozone causes decreased yields of agricultural crops, and will permanently alter forest ecosystems.

Before any decisions are made regarding the development of the coal plant in Manistee, a monitoring station should be established in Manistee for a period of time sufficient to determine whether this community would qualify as a "nonattainment" designation for ozone. One of our Tribal attorney's is currently inquiring with EPA about the costs and timeframes for establishing a monitoring station in Manistee.

Particulate matter is a form of pollution directly emitted by coal plants. The proposed plant will have to operate within federal and state law in regards to particulate matter emissions, but those laws do not sufficiently protect humans, nor

do they protect wildlife.

The representatives of MSWC tell us that they will remove so much of the pollution from the proposed plant's emissions that it will be hard to see anything coming out of the smoke stack. The emissions that we cannot see are at least as harmful as those we can see.

Particulate matter can be solid or liquid and have almost any sort of chemical make-up. Particulate matter is a danger to us because it lodges in our lungs - causing tissue damage and a decreased ability to take in oxygen and expel carbon dioxide. The EPA estimates that particulate matter causes over 15,000 premature deaths each year in the United States. Researchers have shown that exposure to particulate matter correlates with increased incidence of severe asthma attacks, worsening of lung disease and heart damage. These are not mere statistics; they are somebody's mother, father, sister, brother, or child.

The Manistee Salt Works Corporation is promising to use low mercury content coal to minimize mercury pollution emissions. The bulk of mercury pollution comes from long-range atmospheric transport. There is literally no place on earth that has not been polluted by mercury from fossil fuel burning.

Any amount of mercury pollution is too much. Mercury affects the reproductive success of all creatures, including humans. Birth defects and arrested development can result.

Exposure to mercury is most often through the ingestion of food, in particular fish. Adding any amount of mercury to the environment further compromises our ability to safely eat fish caught in the Manistee River watershed. .

The effects of mercury on wildlife are similar to those on humans. Fish and birds experience decreased rates of reproduction, and increased birth defects.

When speaking about mercury pollution during a recent City of Manistee Planning Commission meeting Joe Tondou, the principal owner of MSWC, stated that the 'solution to pollution was dilution.' This is 19th century industrial thinking that is not supported by the weight of evidence. Joe Tondou stated that the overall plant design called for a 400 foot smoke stack. He told the City Planning Commissioners that a stack of this height would spread mercury pollution down wind over great distances and even beyond the United States.

Mercury does not go away. Once in an ecosystem it stays there and it will accumulate over time. Sending the pollution down wind does not solve the problem, it only makes it someone else's problem. This is not responsible citizenship – civic or corporate.

Other aspects of the proposed plant design call for a discharge of process water to Manistee Lake that MSWC has said will be warmer than the ambient lake water. Joe Tondou has told the public that this will improve water quality and create better fishing. This is a gross misrepresentation of the facts. Even if the process water is scrubbed clean of all pollutants, this is not true. Manistee Lake is part of a cold water system. This type of warmer than ambient discharge is a form of thermal pollution that would degrade the Manistee Lake ecosystem.

Another element of concern is the mining of the coal. The coal that MSWC intends to use would be strip mined in Wyoming. Joe Tondou claims that the coal would be scraped off the top – as if to imply that this method is not an environmental issue. There is no way that Joe Tondou can acceptably understate the destructive effect that strip mining has on the environment. Suffice it to say that millions of years of ecosystem development are wiped away by this activity.

I do not want the electricity in my home or in our Tribal offices to fuel additional ecological damage through strip mining, nor do I want to be a consumer for an archaic Appalachian-mode economy somewhere else.

Our Tribal offices and operations certainly depend on electricity and we also depend on car traffic for our economic well-being. Understanding this, we have and will continue to take measures that mitigate the environmental impact. With the support of EPA, we have explored wind turbine development and alternative transportation methods at our new housing development. Although these are currently small-scale explorations we believe they can have large scale implications for the future of the Tribe and the Manistee community as a whole.

In fact, the Tribe will soon be requesting a meeting with the City of Manistee to negotiate the location and installation of an Anemometer, which will be used to measure and determine the feasibility for wind energy in this community.

The Little River Casino Resort will also be giving away two hybrid (gas/electric) vehicles in the near future as promotions. These vehicles have substantially lower emissions than conventional internal combustion engines.

The Tribe has been exploring alternative energy systems, in particular wind energy, for over two years now. In the news lately, I see that Mason County has been approached by a corporation interested in developing wind energy systems along the lake shore, and the County is now proceeding to adopt land use regulations to allow for this. Oceana County already has. Leaders in Mason and Oceana Counties seem to be recognizing the feasibility and potential profitability in advancing 21st Century technologies. And yet, Manistee may return to 19th Century technology?

I believe that there is more wind energy that can be harnessed along the lakeshore of Manistee County than all of the shipments of coal that could feasibly be brought up the river channel. And that, among other reasons are why we want to explore a partnership with the City to install an Anemometer.

The economic impact of alternative power production through a joint venture with the Tribe, the City of Manistee and other entities could have a significant and positive multiplier effect on the local economy. Profits from our proposal would stay in Manistee.

The vast majority of our current employees are non-Tribal. The vast majority of the profits currently generated by the Tribe remain in the local economy; it is not funneled to other states. Unlike corporations, we do not export jobs out of the country.

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians has been diligent in our commitment to build and maintain good relations with our neighbors - here in Manistee and in other places. But we also have a responsibility to the land and all of its creatures. The land is our Mother. And I know that we, as Native people, are not the only people who share those values and that sense of obligation to the Earth.

The issues involved with the proposed power plant are many and complicated. The information I offer, I give with confidence. I also firmly believe that we can work together to develop viable alternatives for energy generation that are ecologically sound, would provide meaningful employment opportunities for Manistee, and are based on 21st century technology.

Miigwetch.
Lee A. Sprague, Ogema
Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

Appeals court nominee favored industry over tribes

Thursday, December 18, 2003

The nation's largest inter-tribal organization took the unprecedented step last month of opposing one of President George W. Bush's judicial nominees. If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Idaho attorney William G. Myers III would make decisions on a large number of Indian law cases. The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals covers more than 100 tribes in eight Western states, including California. It also hears cases affecting Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians.

But the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) says the confirmation "will not be in the best interest of the tribes." Actions taken by Myers as the Department of Interior's top lawyer "show a deep lack of respect and understanding of the unique political relationship between the federal government and tribal governments," a resolution passed at NCAI's annual convention states.

Last month, Myers stepped down as Solicitor of the Interior. It was a post he held since July 2001, when he was confirmed along with several other Bush nominees, includ-

ing former assistant secretary Neal McCaleb, who resigned a year ago this month amid controversy.

Before he left office, Myers played a role in a number of high-profile Indian cases, including the Cobell v. Norton lawsuit, two tribal trust fund lawsuits that went to the U.S. Supreme Court and several disputes that pitted tribes against the mining industry, which he used to represent in private practice. On at least three occasions, Myers sided with mining interests. He cleared the way for a proposed gold mine that threatens the sacred sites of the Quechan Nation of California; he worked to lift a ban on drilling near a lake used by several northern California tribes for religious purposes; and he supported a mining company that wants to open a kitty litter plant next to a reservation just across California's border in Nevada. It was these cases that prompted California tribes to take the lead in registering NCAI's first official opposition to a judicial nominee.

The Coyote Band of Pomo Indians introduced the resolution that the organization passed last month. In October, the California Nations In-

dian Gaming Association (CNIGA), which represents 57 tribes, also voted to oppose Myers. The Senate Judiciary Committee has yet to schedule a nomination hearing for Myers, who has since rejoined the Boise, Idaho, office of the Holland & Hart law firm. Over the past year, Republicans and Democrats on the panel have been squabbling over some of Bush's more controversial nominees. The committee did ask Myers to list "the ten most significant litigated matters that you personally handled." In response, Myers named a Supreme Court case involving the Bishop Paiute Tribe of California.

On behalf of the Bush administration, Myers and other government attorneys argued that the tribe did not have a right to sue county law enforcement officials who seized records from the tribe's casino armed with boltcutters. In a unanimous decision in May, the high court agreed. Myers also listed the Navajo Nation and White Mountain Apache trust cases that were decided by the Supreme Court this year. On behalf of the administration, Myers and other government attorneys

argued that the U.S. was not liable for the mismanagement of tribal trust assets without an explicit law. In siding with the Apaches while turning away the Navajos, a majority of justices rejected this defense.

NCAI and the California tribes aren't the only groups opposing Myers. In a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee this October, a coalition of 23 national environmental organizations accused him of ethical lapses for deciding on matters affecting former clients. The letter also stated that no members of the American Bar Association rated Myers "well qualified" and six or seven rated him "not qualified" to hold a judicial post. Interior's Inspector General has opened an investigation to determine whether Myers violated his promise to recuse himself from matters affecting former clients. The review is not complete. A separate investigation centers on a settlement Myers' office negotiated with a rancher in Wyoming over the objections of the U.S. Attorney's office there.

-This article is posted at <http://www.indianz.com/>

Urban Indian Coalition appeals decision affecting Michigan Indian Medicaid benefits

DETROIT - The National Urban Indian Coalition has joined an appeal of a U.S. District Court decision that it feels is hurting American Indian Medicaid patients in Michigan, and may be setting a bad precedent that can be applied to Natives in other states.

At issue are more stringent Michigan rules (called the Best Practices Initiative) that make it harder to get some prescription drugs without prior approval from the state. The net effect, according to NUIC, is to deny Indians medications that used to be available to them under Medicaid, and to divert scarce financial assistance from urban Indian centers like American Indian Services Inc. here to help Indians buy their drugs.

Earlier this year NUIC joined a suit brought by the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America and the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill against Tommy Thompson, secretary of the Federal Health and Human Services Department, that sought to have the Michigan rule overturned.

However, the U.S. District Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in March upheld Michigan's and the Secretary's position, saying they "withstand statutory and constitutional challenge."

Now, the three groups are appealing that decision. Oral arguments in the case were set for Washington, D.C. on Dec. 12.

According to NUIC Vice President Patricia Newada, "In late February 2002, Michigan began to implement a new program to limit the access of certain prescription drugs that previously were generally available to Medicaid recipients. Since this program was implemented, we have noticed a substantial increase in the number of cases in which American Indians did not get the medications they needed."

Newada said many of the nation's 2.6 million urban Indians rely on Medicaid, and that "we are deeply concerned that limits on access to medicines in the Medicaid program will create dangerous situations for urban American Indians who require the Medicaid program to survive."

Fay Givens, executive director of American Indian Services, testified in court papers that she has seen a "substantial" increase in clients seeking financial assistance to pay for Medicaid drugs since the new rule went into effect.

"AIS provides the requested assistance with monies from its restricted funds, thus diverting monies that would otherwise be allocated towards providing food, transportation, housing and other assistance. If the initiative is allowed to continue, AIS claims, the provision of prescription medication will ultimately crowd out AIS's provision of other services for ur-

ban Indians," according to the District Court's decision.

According to the court, "under the (Michigan) initiative, unless drug manufacturers provide Michigan with rebates on drugs prescribed through Michigan's Medicaid programs (and two non-Medicaid programs) that are greater than the rebates ordinarily required under the Secretary's national Medicaid agreement, (Michigan) may require that doctors prescribing the manufacturers' drugs to Medicaid patients must seek prior authorization from the state."

The three groups charge that Medicaid patients are being "relegate(d) to second-class status" by the state's requirement "that Medicaid physicians prescribe in accordance with state mandates, rather than their own discretion, or face a daunting labyrinth of state review in pursuit of their medical judgment."

This conflicts with a federal "mandate that Medicaid patients have the same access to federally-rebated drugs as non-Medicaid patients."

NUIC gave three cases of Indians being hurt by the new regulation. In one, a Cherokee woman subject to seizures suffered seizures when forced to change meds to a drug on the state's "formulary." One of the seizures occurred right in the pharmacy, "when she was told her medications would not be cov-

ered."

Another, a man of Chippewa descent, suffered a delay in getting ulcer and blood pressure medications, a delay that could have proved fatal. A third, of Mohawk and Kahnawake descent, suffers from depression and other ailments, and becomes anxiety-ridden each time she must get medicine because she fears getting them will be a lengthy and involved process.

NUIC's Newada said "these problems can be particularly acute when the individual is in danger of being denied psychotropic drugs that the patient has been accustomed to taking. Many times medications have not been tested on American Indians, and an Indian patient has difficulty finding a medication he or she can metabolize, it often takes a long and laborious effort to find a medication that works without the side effects."

Posted: December 16, 2003
10:26am EST by: Mark Fogarty /
Today Correspondent

Heritage tourism: violation or honor?

SANTA FE, N.M. - The Bush administration encouraged American Indians to engage in the American heritage program "Preserve America Initiative" to foster economic development and national pride. But Natives gathered at a summit to protect sacred places question if heritage tourism is an appropriate method for economic growth.

John L. Nau III, chairman of the U. S. Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, encouraged heritage programs, pointing out the success in attracting revenues in the state of Texas.

"Who was that man talking to," asked Jimmy Arterberry, Comanche Nation tribal and historic preservation officer, among the summit speakers.

"We were kicked out of Texas, now they want us back," Arterberry told the Summit on Consultation Protocols to Protect Native American Sacred Places.

While Natives attending the summit questioned the advisability of attracting tourists to sacred places, others questioned why the federal agency has done so little to preserve American Indian sacred sites.

San Carlos Apache Velasquez Sneezy asked Nau why no action has been taken by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to protect the Apaches' sacred Mount Graham from the assault of expansive telescope development on top of the pristine mountain in southern Arizona.

Sneezy, former vice chairman of the San Carlos Apache Tribe, was joined by Apache Survival Coalition founders Ola Cassadore and Richard Davis. Sneezy told Nau that Mount Graham should have received status as a historic site long ago, yet nothing has been done.

Sneezy said they have been fighting the University of Arizona in Tucson, other universities and institutions in Rome and Germany to protect the sacred mountain. He pointed out that one medicine man was arrested for praying on the

mountain. But he said the mountain was victorious and the man was acquitted.

Nau was unaware of Mount Graham and said there are many "complicated cases" which never reach his level. He questioned his staff that was present if the agency had received any information and said he would look into it. Although some Native participants at the summit said it may be possible to control the movement of tourists and protect sacred places, others cautioned about damage to sacred places and the theft of sacred names and cultural ways for non-Indian commercial gain.

Picuris Pueblo Gov. Gerald Nailor said Native people should not have to ask federal agencies like the National Park Service for permission to go to their sacred places for prayer.

Picuris are engaged in a struggle to protect their sacred mica clay grounds from destruction near Taos, N.M. Pointing out that gathering mica clay is a sacred act in the cycle of life, not just about making pottery, Nailor said religious freedom laws have to be strengthened.

"We are not going to stop!" Nailor told the summit.

Jeneda Benally, Navajo and member of the rock band Blackfire, said the San Francisco Peak near Flagstaff, one of the Diné Four Sacred Mountains and revered by 22 Indian tribes, is under assault by development. The plan is to use recycled water for snow production on the mountain for the ski industry.

Nau responded that dialogue with the city of Flagstaff and the National Park Service was the best avenue to take, encouraging it as a good business position.

"The worst thing in the world is to get in a fight with your neighbor," he said.

Natives attending the summit, however, pointed out that they have had little success with dialogue with the city of Flagstaff in the past regarding protection of the sacred

peak.

Promoting heritage programs, Nau said this type tourist spends \$27 to \$29 a day more than other tourists on stays in facilities, eating at restaurants and on purchases. He said 99 percent of heritage tourists are respectful when they visit.

"It is the 1 percent you have to deal with. They are not heritage tourists, they are thieves," Nau said.

"The economic benefits far outweigh the abuse," he said. "The education of millions of Americans that don't understand the culture far outweighs the risks of having thieves on the property."

First Lady Laura Bush launched the White House's Preserve America Initiative in March. Recently, the Texas House of Representatives identified the heritage tourism program of the Texas Historical Commission as the most significant economic development program in rural Texas for the last decade. Tourism revenues and the rise in property values were among the advantages cited.

During the summit on sacred places, Nau said his agency is focused on a new strategy and consultation with tribes.

"Beyond being mandated by law, it makes sense," he said, adding that consultation and engaging in a federal heritage program could serve as a model for other federal agencies.

"We're the only one (federal agency) that doesn't have an agenda."

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation advises the president and Congress on issues; recommends legislation; ensures Indian tribes and states have a voice in federal decisions that impact historic properties; mediates between local and federal interests; educates stakeholders about the benefits of historic preservation.

The Advisory Council is designated as an independent federal agency. The president appoints eight non-

federal members, a Native Hawaiian and one governor. The other members are from federal committees and agencies, along with the president of the organization of state preservation officers.

Nau distributed the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's action plan on Native American initiatives, announcing the establishment of a body of American Indian advisors to the Council to improve communication and interaction with Indian tribes.

The American Indian advisors will be comprised of leaders and cultural resource experts from Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations to provide a Native perspective. The advisors will work on policy and consultation tools, while engaging in regional meetings.

The plan includes amending the National Historic Preservation Act to include a member of an Indian tribe on the Advisory Council. It also states that a lack of understanding of protocols and cultural differences on the part of federal officials has led to a lack of participation by tribes in historic preservation.

The summit on sacred places, Nov. 14 - 16, included speakers from throughout Indian country, addresses by federal agencies and tours of the Pueblos' sacred petroglyphs near Albuquerque and Cochiti Pueblo's sacred Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rock Monument.

The summit, held at the Picuris Pueblo-owned Hotel Sante Fe, was sponsored by the Coalition to Protect Native American Sacred Places and organized by the Association on American Indian Affairs and the Morning Star Institute, with funding provided by federal agencies and the International Indian Treaty Council.

Posted:
December 30, 2003
4:07pm

EST by: Brenda Norrell /
Correspondent /
Indian Country Today



\$300 Winning Guarantee

Rebate Program Guarantees New Club Members Will Win at the Little River Casino & Resort

New Player's Club members at the Little River Casino and Resort are guaranteed to win. If a guest joins the Player's Club in January we are so sure that they will win that we will refund 25% of their losses up to \$300 if they happen to lose. That's right, we give back up to \$300 in free coin or gaming chips.

The rebate is mailed to the guest the following month after they enroll. The rebate is a coupon that is redeemable only at Little River for 45 days. The offer is only for slot play. Any loss on the Player's Club Card is based on play for the entire month. This is only available to new Player's Club members so come on over and see we mean business when we advertise that "winning is the name of the game" at Little River! For more information about check out our website:

www.littlerivercasinos.com

Special Events

Coming Soon: Great Lakes Community Visits
Ogema Sprague and Tribal Council members will be taking short trips around the Great Lakes area to visit tribal member communities. If you would like more information or know a group of members that would like to meet with LRBOI government officers please contact Melissa Zele-nak at 1-888-723-8288 for prospective travel dates.

Spring Membership Meeting
Plan ahead to visit with tribal membership in April. Look for the dates in the next Currents. *Friends, family, crafts, good food, dancing, singing, what more is there?!*



February 2004

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 EN	3 AL	4 TC NR	5 AL HS	6	7 WS EL
8	9 BI	10 AL CP	11 TC	12 AL HS ED	13	14
15	16 EN	17 AL	18 TC NR	19 AL HS	20	21 TC
22	23	24 AL CP	25 TC	26 AL HS	27	28
29						

Meeting Schedule & Calendar Abbreviations

Please note that meeting information is subject to change without prior notification. You should always call ahead to verify meeting schedules and agendas if you plan to attend. Calendar meeting abbreviations shown below.

- AL****Anishinaabemowin Language Class**
Every Tuesday 12:20 pm - 1:20 pm LRBOI Community Center
Every Thursday 12:20 pm - 1:20 pm Little Conference Room, Casino
- EN****Enrollment Commission Meeting:** LRBOI Administrative Building
Every first and third Monday of the month at 5:30 pm
- CP****Cultural Preservation Committee Meeting:**
Bank Building, Dome Room 3rd Floor
Every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 5:15 pm
- ED****Education Committee Meeting:** LRBOI Administrative Building
Every 2nd Thursday at 5:30 pm

January 2004

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 WS
4	5 EN	6 AL	7 TC	8 AL HS	9	10
11	12 BI	13 AL	14 TC	15 AL	16	17 TC
18	19 EN	20 AL	21 TC	22 AL	23	24
25	26	27 AL	28 TC	29 AL	30	31

March 2004

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 EN	2 AL	3 TC	4 AL HS	5	6 WS EL
7	8 BI	9 AL CP	10 TC	11 AL HS	12	13
14	15 EN	16 AL CP	17 TC	18 AL HS	19	20 TC
21	22	23 AL	24 TC	25 AL HS	26	27
28	29	30 AL	31 TC			

- EL****Elders Meeting:** LRBOI Community Center
First Saturday of the month 12:00 pm (pot luck luncheon)
- NR****Natural Resources Commission Meeting:** East Lake Office
First & Third Wednesday at 6:00 pm
- TC****Tribal Council Meeting:** Bank Building, Dome Room 3rd Floor
Every Wednesday at 10:00 am & Every Third Saturday - 10:00 am
- WS****Warrior Society Meeting:** LRBOI Community Center
First Saturday of the month 10:00am
- HS****Housing Commission Meeting:** LRBOI Administrative Building
Every Thursday 5:15pm
- GA****Gaming Commission:** Call for dates & directions
Every other Saturday 9:00am & Every other Tuesday 5:30pm
- BI****Binojeeuk Commission Meeting:** Bank Building,
Tribal Council Conference Room, Every second Monday 10:00am

DIRECT CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS

Ogema’s Office	1-231-398-6823	Training & Development	1-231-398-9372
Tribal Council	1-231-398-6846	Wastewater & Utilities	1-231-723-2309
• Elaine Porter	1-231-398-6833	Warrior’s Society	1-231-398-6720
• Pat Ruiter	1-231-398-6831	Bedabin Receptionist	1-231-398-6604
• Pamela Medahko	1-231-398-6849	Elder’s Coordinator	1-231-398-6709
• Steve Parsons	1-231-398-6830	Enrollment Officer	1-231-398-6712
• Brian Medacco	1-231-398-6828	Commodities Department	1-231-398-6715
• Janine Sam	1-231-398-6834	Accounting Department	1-231-398-6816
• Tammy Kleeman	1-231-398-6835	Current News	1-231-398-6871
• Israel Stone	1-231-398-6807	Natural Resources	1-231-723-1594
• Lisa McCatty	1-231-398-6719	Little River Casino	1-231-398-6833
Health Clinic	1-231-723-8299	Toll-Free	1-888-568-2244
Toll-Free	1-888-382-8299	Maintenance Department	1-231-723-7733
Job Hotline	1-866-556-5660	Housing Department	1-231-398-6734
Language Hotline	1-877-789-0993	Member’s Assistance	1-231-398-6864
Tribal Court	1-231-398-3406		
Public Safety	1-231-398-3413		
		LRBOI TOLL-FREE 1-888-723-8288	

ADDRESSES

Administration Building 1762 US 31 South Manistee, MI 49660 <i>Just South of K-Mart Plaza</i>	Natural Resources 159 Brickyard Road Manistee, MI 49660 <i>Big Blue off M-55</i>
Health Clinic 310 9th Street Manistee, MI 49660 <i>Above Child Care Center</i>	Tribal Court 3031 Domres Road Manistee, MI 49660 <i>In Newland Bldg</i>
Little River Casino & Resort 2700 Orchard Highway Manistee, MI 49660 <i>Corner of M-22 & US-31</i>	Government Offices 375 River Street Manistee, MI 49660 <i>In National Bank Bldg</i>
Community Center 1762 US 31 South Manistee, MI 49660 <i>Just South of K-Mart Plaza</i>	Public Safety 3031 Domres Road Manistee, MI 49660

LRBOI Q&A TOPIC: TERRITORY, PART 1

Watch future issues of Currents for questions and answers about topics from land use to health care. If you have questions that you'd like to see in the LRBOI Q&A column please mail them to: Little River Currents, 375 River Street, Manistee, MI 49660.

What is Aboriginal territory/Traditional territory?

The land which an Indian tribe or nation claimed prior to the arrival of Europeans in North America is Aboriginal or Traditional territory. These territories could be "exclusive" to the members of a particular group of Indians or could be shared by more than one tribe or nation.

The creation story of the Anishinaabe considers all of the North American continent to be the Traditional territory of the Anishinaabek. In the Anishinaabe creation story the Creator made Turtle Island, including the plants and animals, so the Anishinaabe could live in harmony on that place forever with them.

What is Ceded territory?

The term "cede" means "to surrender, relinquish, or to assign or grant". Ceded territory is that portion of an Indian tribe or nation's Traditional territory that is "ceded" to the United States in a treaty.

Many Indian tribes made treaties with the United States government, however not all were made under duress such as the 1836 Treaty of Washington. In this treaty (between the Ottawa and Chippewa Indian Nations and the United States Government) Indian chiefs agreed to give up, or cede, their lands to stop the forced removal of our people to Kansas. They made this hard decision to keep people together in their Traditional territory.

What is a Reservation?

The portion of an Indian nation's territory that is retained, or reserved, by the tribe from the area that is ceded, or sold. In the 1836 treaty the Ottawa and Chippewa reserved lands, for example "one tract of seventy thousand acres to be located on, or, north of the Pierre Marquette river."

Important to the reservation concept is that the reserved lands represent a portion of a larger tract of land. In the Anishinaabemowin language the term for reservation literally means "our leftovers". Our reservation consists of lands leftover from our Traditional territory.

Look for the topic, Territory, Part 2 in the next issue of Currents

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Please call for submission guidelines and submittal instructions, your comments are always welcome. Any original photos, artwork or written text you send with a self-addressed stamped envelope will be returned to you.

UPCOMING LAND USE SURVEY

An important survey to find out the thoughts, concerns and priorities about tribal land use is currently under development. The Ogema and staff are working with consultants to prepare this survey and anticipate mailing it to citizens sometime this Spring. Your participation, no matter where you live, is critical to all members. The survey results will guide our Ogema and Tribal Council and help them make informed decisions for the benefit of our people today, and tomorrow.

EMAIL ADDRESS

To help save postage and get news to members faster, Currents will be on-line in the upcoming months. Please send your email address to currents@lrboi.com to receive your monthly newspaper by email when it becomes available.

LANGUAGE CD

The new language CD-ROM is now being sent to all heads of household who request it. You can email pheasant9@aol.com or call 1-877-789-0993 to request that a copy be mailed to you. This is really a terrific CD and something that every member or tribal employee will find beneficial. It's easy to use, great for kids, and even better for adults who are beginning to learn our language again. One copy is given free to each household. Extra copies are also for sale. If you'd like an extra please contact Kenny Pheasant.

ADVERTISING

A new advertising program is being prepared for tribal and non-tribal business owners. It's a good way for our tribal members to share their business's merchandise or services with others in the tribe. It's also good when we can help support one another through purchases and recommendations.

Tribal members can also participate in the Merchant Benefit Program for tribal and non-tribal business owners. This program offers great communication and marketing opportunities to advertisers and potential discount purchasing for members. If you know someone interested in putting their advertising budget to work in the next issue of Currents, please contact Melissa Zelenak at currents@lrboi.com or 1-888-723-8288.

FREE CLASSIFIED ADS FOR TRIBAL MEMBERS

If you're a tribal member you can place a NON-BUSINESS classified ad in the newspaper free. The limit is 30 words so if you have an old car to sell, are looking for an apartment to rent, or even have some puppies to give away, just send us your ad by the 15th of the month to get it into the next month's issue.

LITTLE RIVER LADIES LUNCHEONS

For the past couple of months a group of ladies have been meeting for a pot luck lunch at the LRBOI Community Center. They meet on the first Monday of each month from 12-1:00pm. The luncheons are open to all (lady) tribal members, member wives or girlfriends and employees. Each month there's a different theme for meals and a different topic on anything from dancing to beading. For February the theme for meals is Summer B-B-Q so come on over and have lunch with the Little River Ladies. There's always something to learn (and good to eat) and the fellowship is lots of fun!

CLOSING THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH



"One reason a dog is such a loveable creature is his tail wags instead of his tongue."

From the book: *Bond for Life, Emotions Shared by People and their Pets* by Jo Willis & Ian Robinson, published by Willow Creek Press

Little River
Casino & Resort

January 2004 Calendar of Events

- Jan. 16 VIP Party
- Jan. 17 Saturday Morning Madness
- Jan. 18 World Chili Tour
- Jan. 19 Blues Brothers Drawing
- Jan. 19 Martin Luther King Day
- Jan. 20 "Free Gas for a Year"
- Jan. 21 Club 55 Coin
- Jan. 24 Saturday Morning Madness
- Jan. 25 World Chili Tour
- Jan. 27 "Free Gas for a Year"
- Jan. 28 Club 55 Coin
- Jan. 29 Safe Cracker Drawing
- Jan. 31 Saturday Morning Madness

Call 1-888-568-2244 for more information or room reservations.



You'll be able to check out the new LRBOI website soon! It's "Under Construction" but you can still review special information there for now and communicate with LRBOI by email through the website. Since great websites are always being updated and change often, the site may technically never be "done" but within the next few weeks the largest portion of the site will be up for you to review whenever you'd like!

To My Dear Child,

Just for this morning, I am going to smile when I see your face and laugh when I feel like crying.

Just for this morning, I will let you choose what you want to wear, and smile and say how perfect it is.

Just for this morning, I am going to step over the laundry, and pick you up and take you to the park to play.

Just for this morning, I will leave the dishes in the sink, and let you teach me how to put that puzzle of yours together.

Just for this afternoon, I will unplug the telephone and keep the computer off, and sit with you in the backyard and blow bubbles.

Just for this afternoon, I will not yell once, not even a tiny grumble when you scream and whine for the ice cream truck, and I will buy you one if he comes by.

Just for this afternoon, I won't worry about what you are going to be when you grow up, or second guess every decision I have made where you are concerned.

Just for this afternoon, I will let you help me bake cookies, and I won't stand over you trying to fix them.

Just for this afternoon, I will take us to McDonald's and buy us both a Happy Meal so you can have both toys.

Just for this evening, I will hold you in my arms and tell you a story about how you were born and how much I love you.

Just for this evening, I will let you splash in the tub and not get angry.

Just for this evening, I will let you stay up late while we sit on the porch and count all the stars.

Just for this evening, I will snuggle beside you for hours, and miss my favorite TV shows.

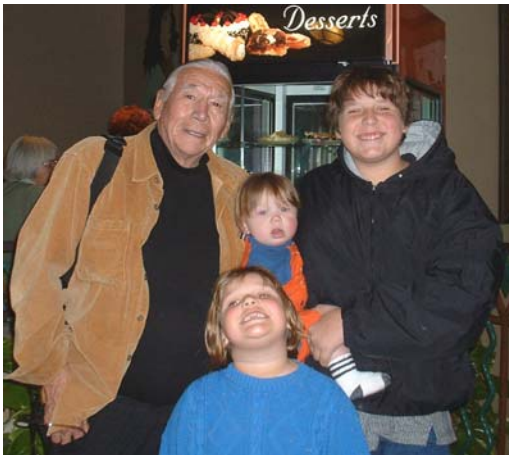
Just for this evening when I run my finger through your hair as you pray, I will simply be grateful that God has given me the greatest gift ever given. I will think about the mothers and fathers who are searching for their missing children, the mothers and fathers who are visiting their children's graves instead of their bedrooms, and mothers and fathers who are in hospital rooms watching their children suffer senselessly, and screaming inside that they can't handle it anymore.

And when I kiss you good night I will hold you a little tighter, a little longer. It is then, that I will thank God for you, and ask him for nothing, except one more day.....

Artwork, photos, and poetry will be sent back to you if you send it with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to return it in. Please include your full name, tribal identification number and current mailing address with all submissions. If sending photos or artwork please include a description of the subject as well. Dedications must be received 30 days in advance.

Send all submissions to:
Little River Currents, 375 River Street, Manistee, MI 49660

E-mail TEXT ONLY files to: currents@lrboi.com



Floyd Red Crow Westerman with Art & Colleen Debres' kids, Al, Daniel and Lila after the Fall 2003 Membership meeting. Talk about a sweet picture...



Ogema Lee Sprague and his also sweet baby, Zhaawan.

Happy 59th Wedding Anniversary
Sylvester & Maxine Battice

59 years ago you pledged your love to each other. Today, after two daughters, five granddaughters and thirteen grandchildren and that love is still going strong.

LOVE from all of us! *Diana, Janet & families*

Little River Ladies

Potluck Luncheon First Monday of each month 12-1pm at LRBOI Community Center. Contact Melissa Zelenak by e-mail: melissa111165@yahoo.com for more information.

Happy Belated Birthday
December 9th to Bill LaPorte of Marquette
From a Friend

Happy Birthday January 12th,
5yrs old
Jalissa Leigh
Love your bothers and sisters

Happy 3rd Birthday January 24th
JACOB
From Mom, Josclyn, Jalissa, Jasmine, Jaquelyn, JessieJames



NOTICE TO MEMBERSHIP
3x Rule

To avoid newspapers and other mailing items being returned to the Tribe the Ogema has authorized the use of a "3X" (three times) rule. If your newspaper or other mail is sent back to the Tribal offices three times you will be removed from the mailing list. Although your address will remain in the data base (for verification purposes) you will not receive any mailings until you send in an updated change of address form and it is received by the Enrollment office. If you have had problems or someone you know is not receiving their mail please get in touch with Kimberly Alexander, Enrollment Officer at 888.723.8288 to obtain the proper change of address form. Miigwech!

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Little River Band of
Ottawa Indians
375 River Street
Manistee, MI 49660

Bulk
Mailing
Permit